

Presidential Address¹

BRANDT G. WATSON

*Director, Naples Mosquito Control District
Naples, Florida 33940*

In this plastic, computerized world of energy crisis, environmental impact studies, short skirts, and instant ecology in which we live, our thoughts, habits, and ethics are constantly being challenged. Old standby methods and products are being severely attacked. We are confused, often enraged, by conflicting scientific reports. We live in an aura of urgency as one caught in a circumstantial kaleidoscope which erratically oscillates from forces beyond our control; yet, we are each charged with the task of retaining our identity and our balance in each new kaleidoscopic pattern.

But still, through all this maze, which at times seems almost inescapable, remains the same simple fact that has existed since antiquity; the fact that man needs his fellow-man for security, knowledge and, yes, at times, even compassion. This need is partially satisfied by gatherings such as this, where associates can meet professionally and socially, formally and informally, to present and discuss new information and practices, or valuable modifications of the old. This, in my opinion, was the guiding force behind establishing this society some 13 years ago—to bring together

workers from many allied fields of endeavor to study and practice methods that will effectively balance aquatic plant and animal populations while maintaining or improving water quality in a frail but complex ecosystem.

It is imperative that we continue to expand our scope of knowledge and experience if we expect to gain in stature and influence as a society. Strides have been made in this direction by accepting papers on many phases of aquatic plant management, which is certainly evidenced by our program for this meeting. Our membership has become more diversified in professional categories, both nationally and internationally. Many university and public libraries are receiving our Hyacinth Control Journal for cataloging, and Biological Abstracts, Incorporated, has requested it for abstracting. Furthermore, we are receiving official delegates from The Weed Science Society of America at our Executive Board Meetings and sending our official delegates to theirs.

This is a very young and vibrant society with its share of ambitious growing pains and old aches; but its future health and energy will come from its membership; so let us each tend it with respect and care.

¹Presented at the 13th annual meeting of the Hyacinth Control Society Meeting at New Orleans, Louisiana, July 15-18, 1973.